

**Picture News at Home**

Dear Parents,

In our commitment to develop children’s critical literacy skills we have teamed up with Picture News to help develop their understanding and appreciation of the news. In school each week we have an assembly based upon the picture news resources.

Picture news have begun to produce a resource which we can share with parents so we can work together engaging our children in current affairs in an age-appropriate way.

Having age-appropriate conversations with your child about the news keeps them interested and informed about what’s happening in the world…and you too!

They move from wanting to know what happens in MY world to what is happening in THE world and their place in it. These regular conversations about the news enable us to be able to share a whole range of topics and together make more sense of different events, issues and stories.

Some significant news stories can be frightening and we consider what children can cope with and whether they are developmentally ready to understand certain events. For example, we might decide to listen to the news rather than watch it as there may be images they might find upsetting.

Talking about the major headlines of the day and current affairs is important so that children grow up as global citizens but it’s important too to share a variety of fun and exciting news stories from the worlds of sport, entertainment, music, science, etc as well as local news closer to home.

Here are some quick tips on exploring the news at home:

* **Initiate** discussions about the news using the Picture News resources.
* **Read and watch** some news stories together from different sources.
* **Find out** what your child knows about the news and explore their understanding.
* **Listen** to what your child says and value their opinions.
* **Explain** simply and in a way that makes sense to them.
* **Promote** a habit of enquiry and make asking questions your child’s default setting.
* **Help** your child to spot fake news and how to fact-check.
* **Develop** a news habit by accessing the news daily.
* **Defuse** bad news and offerreassurance.
* **Protect** yourchild from distressing and disturbing news.
* **Avoid** repeated viewings of the same news event.
* **Monitor** your child’s exposure to the news.

Discussing the news of the day doesn’t have to be formal but can be done naturally and casually in everyday moments such as on the way to school or preparing a meal.

The important thing is to keep the conversation going about the news and make it a feature of your daily lives.

By working together we can help children become critical consumers of the news so that they are ‘news savvy’, articulate and confident citizens.

The news story that picture news produce each week will be posted on your child’s class blog on a Monday, this is also the day our Picture News assembly usually takes place as well.

We hope you enjoy discussing the news stories together.

Kind Regards

Mrs Catterall

PSHE Subject Leader.